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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MAJORITY (202) 225-4527

MINORITY (202) 225-3725

<http://edworkforce.house.gov>

April 27, 2006

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TIMOTHY H. BISHOP, NEW YORK

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to urge you to restore funding to the Even Start Family Literacy Programs at the Fiscal 2005 level of \$225 million.

For the past several years, the President has recommended eliminating the Even Start Family Literacy program, using the results of its Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) questionnaire as a central justification. Earlier this month, the effectiveness of PART as a budget tool was questioned by the Majority Staff Director of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability.

As reported by GovExec, the Majority Staff Director noted that Even Start

"...was originally established by Congress to boost adult reading levels, but its PART evaluation is based largely on the number of participants who obtain general equivalency degrees. As a result, the program received an ineffective rating in 2002 and OMB recommended that its funding be zeroed out." (*GovExec, OMB program assessments viewed as flawed budget tool, April 4, 2006*)

Meanwhile, over half of the Even Start programs in the country—including 20 of the only 28 programs serving the Native American community—will face termination by July 1, 2006 because of the budget decisions based on the PART analysis.

The Even Start Family Literacy Program is a comprehensive family literacy program, which serves both parents and young children who are most in need. The programs provide adult education, parenting education, early childhood education, and interactive parent and child literacy activities. More than 40 million adults have basic literacy skills or limited proficiency in English that interferes with their ability to participate fully in work, family and community activities. Current funding, which includes Even Start and other programs, reaches only 2.8 million of these adults each year, and thousands more are on waiting lists.

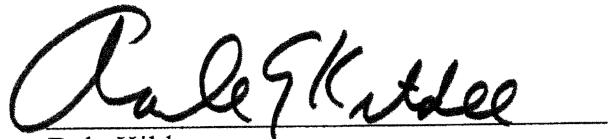
Given this new information, we believe it is imperative to revisit the Even Start funding request and to restore funding for this effective and successful program—as demonstrated by several independent analyses.

Thank you for your consideration of this emergency request.

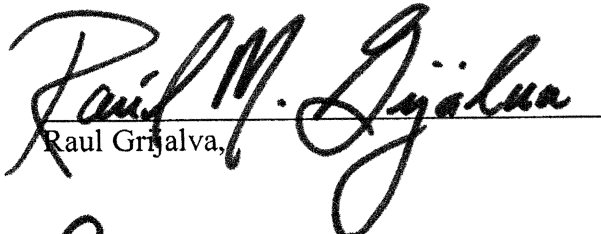
Sincerely,



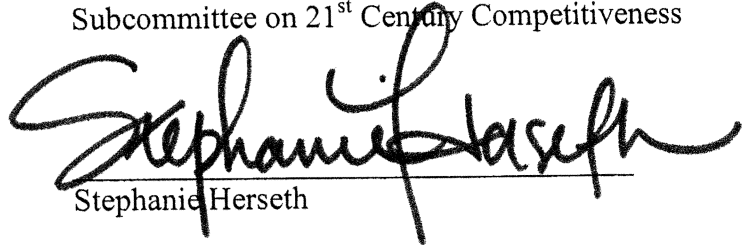
George Miller  
Senior Democratic Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce



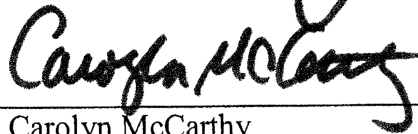
Dale Kildee  
Senior Democratic Member  
Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness



Raul Grijalva,



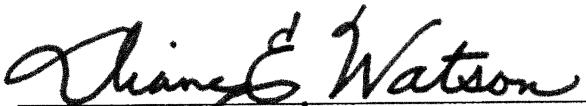
Stephanie Herseth



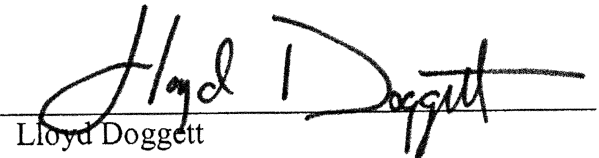
Carolyn McCarthy



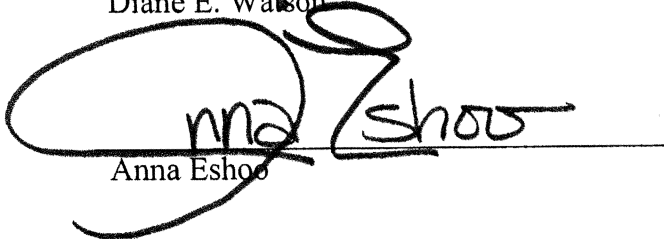
Ed Case



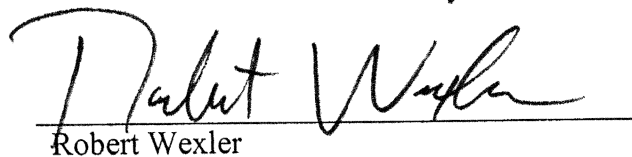
Diane E. Watson



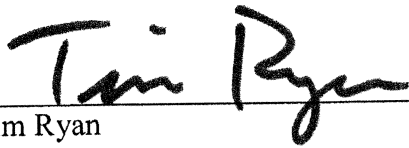
Lloyd Doggett

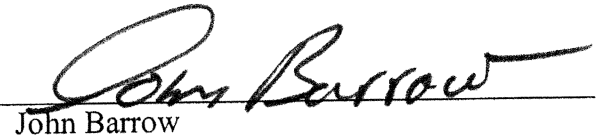


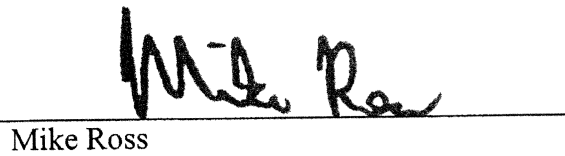
Anna Eshoo

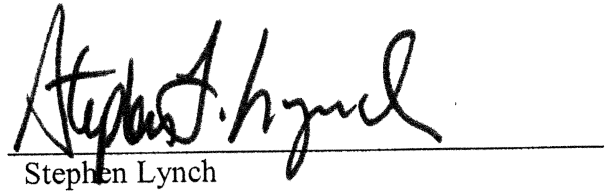


Robert Wexler

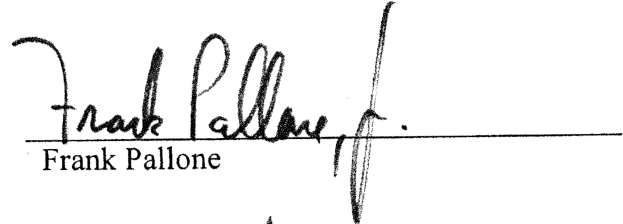
  
Tim Ryan

  
John Barrow

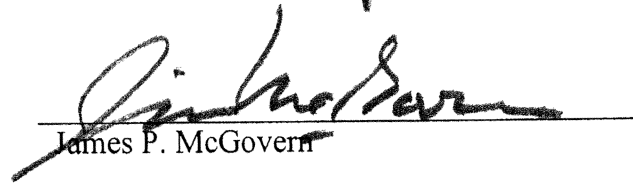
  
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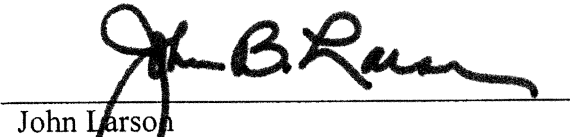
  
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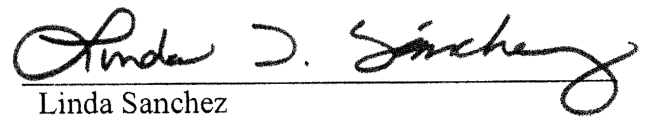
  
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Frank Pallone

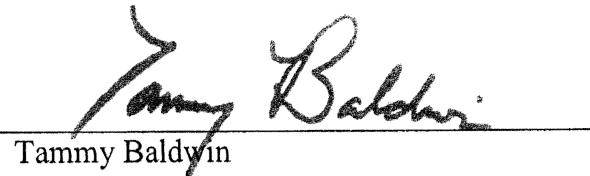
  
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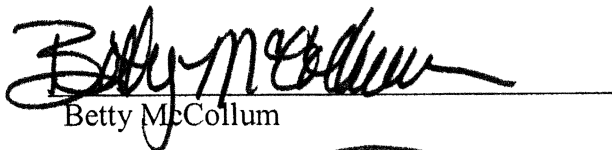
  
James P. McGovern

  
John Larson

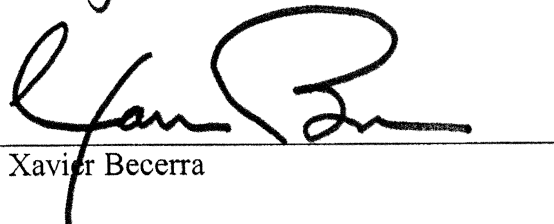
  
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Rush Holt

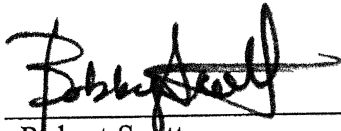
  
Tammy Baldwin

  
Betty McCollum

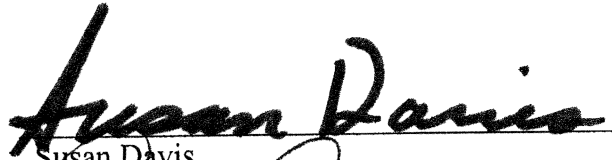
  
Jim McDermott

  
Xavier Becerra

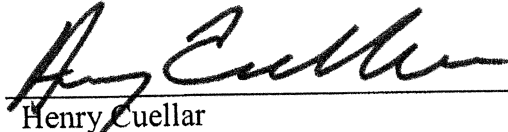
  
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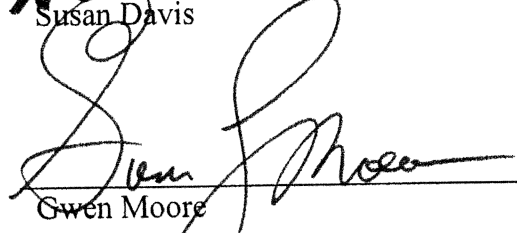
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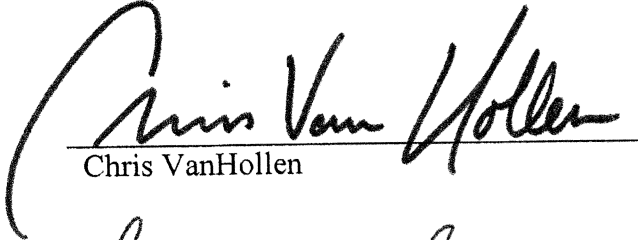
Susan Davis



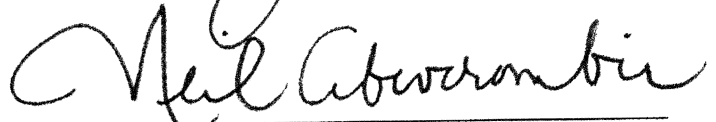
Henry Cuellar



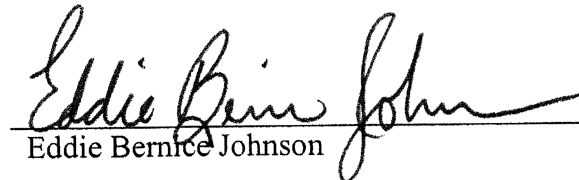
Gwen Moore



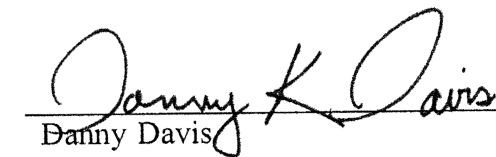
Chris VanHollen



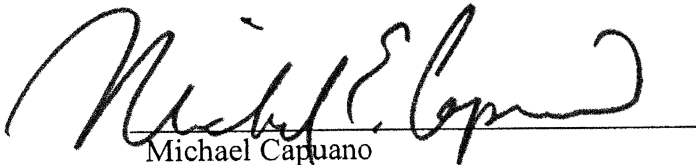
Neil Abercrombie



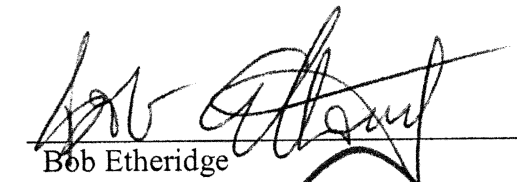
Eddie Bernice Johnson



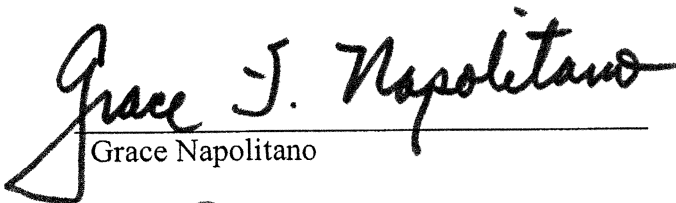
Danny Davis



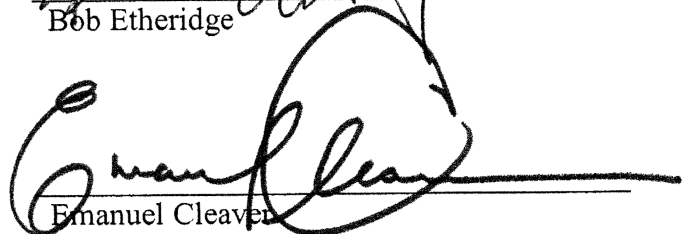
Michael Capuano



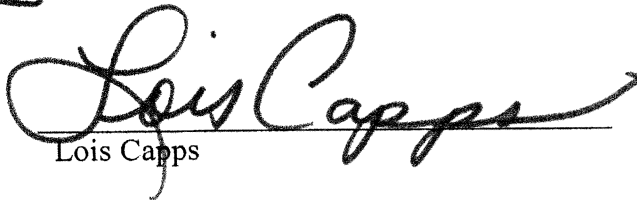
Bob Etheridge



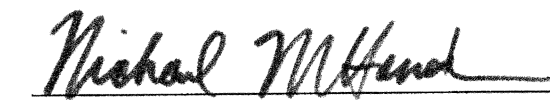
Grace Napolitano



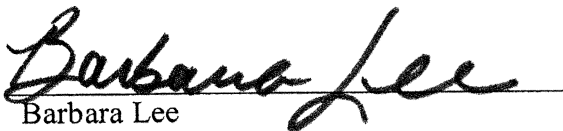
Emanuel Cleaver



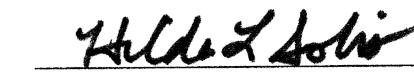
Lois Capps



Michael Honda



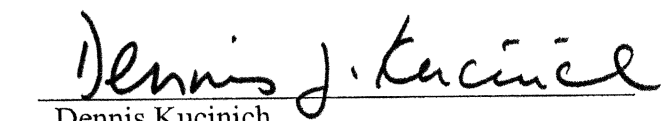
Barbara Lee



Hilda Solis



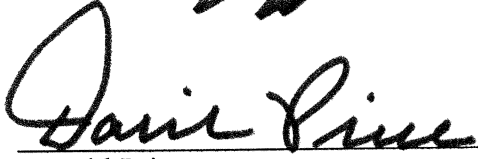
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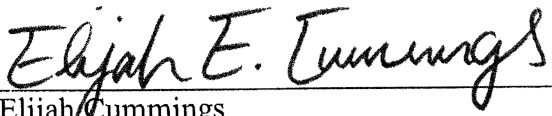
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William Jefferson

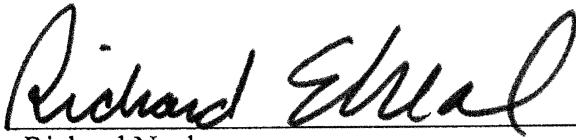
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

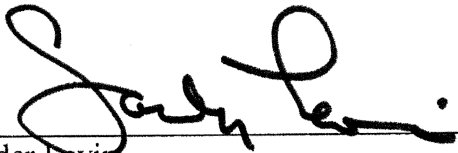
  
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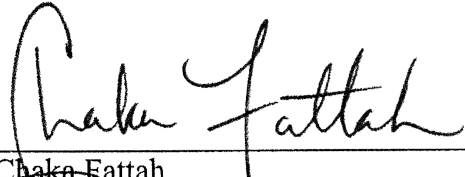
  
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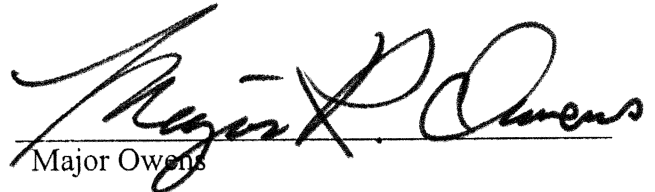
  
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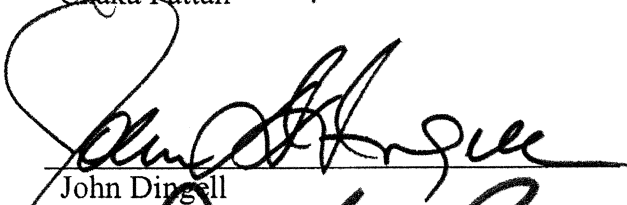
  
Lynn Woolsey

  
Richard Neal

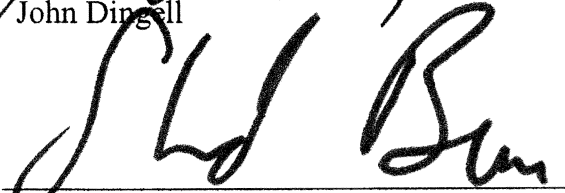
  
Sander Levin

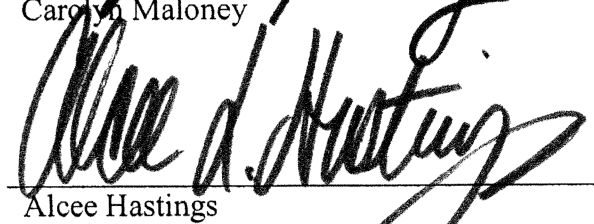
  
Chaka Fattah

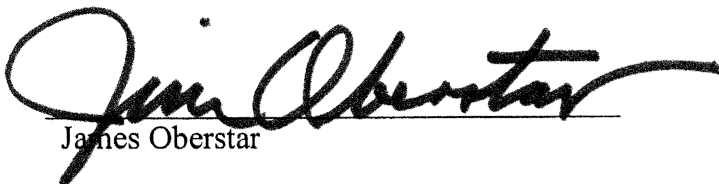
  
Major Owens

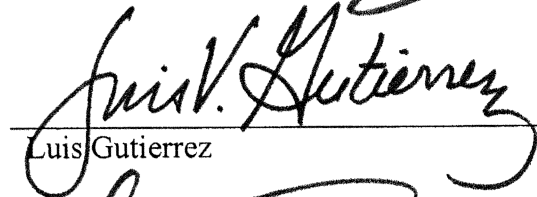
  
John Dingell

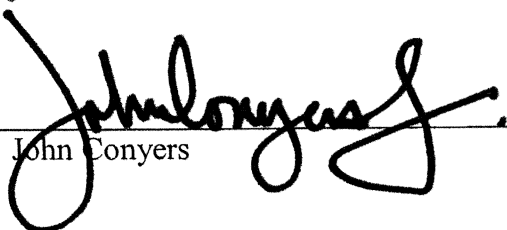
  
Carolyn Maloney

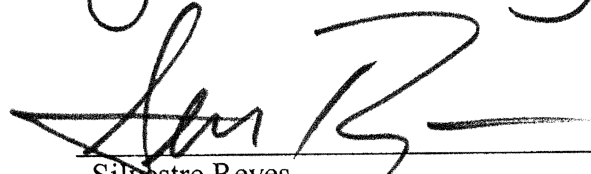
  
Sherrod Brown

  
Alcee Hastings

  
James Oberstar

  
Luis Gutierrez

  
John Conyers

  
Silvestre Reyes

*Mike McIntyre*

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Mike McIntyre

*Bill Delahunt*

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William Delahunt

*Ruben Hinojosa*

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Ruben Hinojosa

*Solomon P. Ortiz*

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Solomon Ortiz